

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS STATE 075229

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: BALENCIAGA SHOW AT PALACE OF ARTS

FOR CAO

DIRECTORS OFFICE OF METROPOLITAN MUSEUM IN NEW YORK HAS CONTACTED DEPARTMENT TO REPORT THAT MUSEUM CURATOR STELLA BLUM, CURRENTLY IN MADRID REPACKING BALENCIAGA SHOW AT PALACE OF ARTS, HAS ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES WITH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. ELEMENTS OF SHOW WERE BORROWED FROM LENDERS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, WITH UNDERSTANDING THEY WOULD BE RETURNED DIRECTLY FROM MADRID. CUSTOMS OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED BLUM THAT ALL ITEMS MUST BE RETURNED TO NEW YORK, SINCE THAT IS WHERE THEY CAME FROM. IN ADDITION TO VIOLATING MUSEUM'S AGREEMENT WITH LENDERS, THIS WOULD SUBJECT FRAGILE ITEMS TO TWO UNNECESSARY OCEAN CROSSINGS (IN CASE OF EUROPEAN ITEMS). BLUM WILL CALL ON CAO TO SEEK GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE. KISSINGER

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